



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

September 10, 2003

**FATHER SENT TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR 6 MONTHS
FOR FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT**

Orlando – Today, United States District Court Judge Patricia C. Fawsett sentenced George C. Karlsen, 44, of Wenatchee, Washington, to six months' imprisonment, six months' community confinement, and restitution of \$56,206.25 for willfully failing to pay child support. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge on August 27, 2003.

In 1987 Mr. Karlsen was ordered to pay \$55 per week child support for his 4 year old son in a divorce action filed in New Jersey. Mrs. Karlsen and the son lived in Florida.

The following year Florida authorities began a ten year effort to enforce the original court order and collect an arrearage from Mr. Karlsen that continued to grow over the years.

The Court heard evidence that in 1990 Mr. Karlsen inherited \$683,550.62 from his mother's estate, and in 1991 he made a \$12,000 payment toward his son's support. A payment of \$809.75 in 1992 was the only other child support provided by Mr. Karlsen.

A Federal indictment was returned against Mr. Karlsen in the Middle District of Florida in May, 2002, charging him with willful failure to pay a child support obligation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 228. He was arrested in Wenatchee, Washington, in June, 2002.

The case was investigated by agents from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Bruce S. Ambrose, Maria ChapaLopez and Rachelle DesVaux-Bedke.